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March 18 2009 Meeting Minutes

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes – Final March 18, 2009

Present: Sheri Baron, Marissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Vice Chair Vita Cohen, Stacy Davison, Jorge Loayza, Nancy Rhoads, Marlene Schultz, Bill Shea, Nancy Sweeney

Absent: Chair Nick Minton, Judson Pierce

Guest: Ptl. James Smith

Open Forum – there were no guests this month

Review of February Minutes – Commissioner Shea motioned to accept the February Minutes as amended

Networks and Coalitions –

MAHRC – Commissioner Sweeney gave a report on the many transgender issues that were discussed at the February meeting and reminded commissioners of the monthly meeting held on the 2nd Friday of each month at the Medford City Hall.

Incidents and Complaints –

Commissioner Rhoads reported that a resident who feels he is being harassed has contacted her. After discussing the issues with the commission it was decided that she would write him a letter explaining our policy, enclose a brochure and complaint form that he may file if he wishes to pursue action. She will offer a mediation meeting with Commissioner Shea and Officer Smith.

Outreach Report – Officer Smith spoke of the work he is doing at the Senior Center but had no incidents to report this month.

Budget – The AHRC request for additional monies was turned down but the current budget of \$4,500 will most likely be approved by Town Meeting.

Crash Data Feedback – The Commission supported the graphic and letter of response to Chief Ryan written by Vice Chair Cohen and Commissioner Briggett. Final copy will be mailed to the Chief.

Subcommittee Reports –

Holocaust Dialogue – Commissioner Baron is still working on plans for dialogue to be presented by Dr. Margo Selig-Blank in May.

Anniversary of Gay Marriage Dialogue – planned for September 17th – details forthcoming

Parent Workshop for Preschoolers - being planned for November. Officer Smith offered to provide monies for books that may be used for this event.

Teen Dating/Violence and Early Childhood Dialogues – moved until spring, 2010 – details forthcoming

Schools – nothing to report at this time – Commissioners suggested we invite Supt. Kathy Bodie to come meet with us once school closes.

Policies/Procedures – no report

Rapid Response – updated mail list distributed to all commissioners. Suggested changes will be made to draft letter submitted by Vice Chair Cohen. Commissioner Baron suggested that all commissioners check over listing for any additional information they may have. This is still a work in progress.

Other Business –

Commissioner Rhoads reported the Brackett School charges were billed to us in error.

Vice Chair Cohen moved to adjourn. Commissioner Shea seconded. The meeting was concluded.

Submitted by:

Marylynn Carnell

Staff Assistant